

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05282 281114Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 XMB-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/030 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7629

UNCLAS TUNIS 5282

USDOC FOR CAGNE

DEPT PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, EMIN, EFIN, TS
SUBJ: EXTENSION OF TUNISIAN STEEL MILL: EARLY WARNING

REF: TUNIS A-097 OF JULY 15, 1977; 10 FAM 164

1. REFERENCED AIRGRAM REPORTS AND TRANSMITS LIST OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDED IN TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT'S FIFTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1977-81). THE EMBASSY IS INQUIRING INTO STATUS OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND--WHERE COMMERCIALY JUSTIFIED--REPORTING ON THEM INDIVIDUALLY TO COMPLEMENT AND UPDATE THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE PROJECT LIST ENCLOSED WITH THE AIRGRAM. FOLLOWING REPORT DEALS WITH TWO MAJOR PROJECTS IN STEEL SECTOR.

2. PROJECT 34: EXTENSION OF TUNISIA'S STEEL PRODUCTION. A. WE CONTACTED EL FOULADH STEEL MILL, A TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AUTONOMOUS ENTITY. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, MR. MOHSEN KRICHENE, GAVE US FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON STATUS OF PROJECT: PREFEASIBILITY STUDY IS BEING MADE BY BRITISH ENGINEERING FIRM OF W. S. ATKINS AND PARTNERS, WOODCOTE GROVE, ASHLEY ROAD, EPSON, SURREY, U.K. TO DETERMINE WHETHER NEW PLANT SHOULD BE
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RECOMMENDED, AND IF SO, ITS SIZE, LOCATION, COSTS, ETC. (INITIAL COST ESTIMATE IS ROUGHLY \$450 MILLION). THIS STUDY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN FALL OF 1977. IF OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY IS POSITIVE, DETAILED ENGINEERING STUDY WILL BE MADE--NOT NECESSARILY BY SAME ENGINEERING FIRM. INTERNATIONAL TENDER TO BE ISSUED AT AN UNSPECIFIED DATE. FINANCING PACKAGE NOT DETERMINED, BUT IS ENVISAGED TO INCLUDE TLIVFOULADH'S OWN

MEANS, GOT BUDGET, AND FOREIGN SOURCES SUCH AS SUPPLIERS CREDITS AND/OR GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT LOANS. CONTACT FOR VISITING BUSINESSMEN: MR. MOKHTAR RABIA, SOUS DIRECTEUR D'USINE, SOCIETE EL FOULADH, 122 RUE DE YOUGOSLAVIE, TUNIS. FOR ANY INFORMATION, WRITE TO MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT DIRECTEUR GENERAL, SOCIETE EL FOULADH, MENZEL BOURGUIBA, TUNISIA.

3. PROECT 35 - EXTENSION OF EL FOULADH STEEL MILL: SOURCE: SAME AS ABOVE. PREFEASIBILITY STUDY BY W. S. ATKINS AND PARTNERS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER 1977. THIS STUDY AND THAT MENTIONED ABOVE ARE INTER-RELATED. EL FOULADH OFFICIALS MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO EXPAND EXISTING STEEL MILL TO ITS FULL CAPACITY (AT COST OF ABOUT \$26 MILLION) BEFORE BUILDING NEW PLANT. COMPANY OFFICIALS HOPE TO REACH DECISION ON EXPANSION, BASED ON RESULTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FINANCIAL MEANS AVAILABLE, BY END OF 1977.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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